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Col. Kimberly M. Colloton, PMP  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
915 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA

March 4, 2014

Dear Col. Colloton,

I am writing on behalf of the 1,450 business investors in the Tucson Metro Chamber and the 110,000 employees those companies represent. We are grateful for the hard work your agency has devoted to the Rosemont Copper Project in Arizona. The Corps of Engineers has played an extensive and important role in this process, guiding the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) process and managing the 404 permitting process under the Clean Water Act.

Since the original application and the subsequent public notice for this project by the Corps in December 2011, the permitting process has continued to evolve. This evolution has taken time, and as the largest business organization in Southern Arizona, we are naturally concerned when unnecessary regulatory delays in the permitting and environmental review process prevent good projects from proceeding so they can bring economic strength and jobs to our community. We understand the Corps is pushing the process forward and we appreciate that approach.

From our perspective, it seems that Rosemont Copper, regulatory agencies, tribes, conservation groups and the community have collaborated to identify the best possible plan for Rosemont. Rosemont will provide 10% of the nation's copper production. Producing copper domestically is something in the public's best interest. It is far better to have our natural resources "Made in the USA" rather than on foreign soil. We are impressed with Rosemont's approach to land and water conservation.

As a business organization, we await Rosemont's anticipated employment of almost 2,000 workers for two years during construction, 450 direct employees for mine operations and more than 1,700 indirect jobs. These jobs are expected to produce a \$3.3 billion increase in personal income over the 20-year life of the mine. The project will put Arizonans to work with above average compensation levels.

The Tucson Metro Chamber commends you and your colleagues for your commitment to a thorough, credible permitting process. We urge you to continue working through the permitting process expeditiously and that you find, as we did, that Rosemont provides a unique opportunity to provide a large public benefit while mitigating impacts.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Varney  
President & CEO